

## Misunderstandings

With a meeting in the west end of Edmonton and a sunny, coolish morning, the decision was very easy. I was going to ride my bike to the meeting and run a few errands on the way home later. Traffic was not that heavy on 156<sup>th</sup> street as I approached the light just before the bridge over the Yellowhead Trail. The light turned yellow, an older woman driving a small orangy car in the centre lane slowed and came to a stop just as the light turned red. Right at that moment, a gravel truck came up on her in her lane at high speed. The driver swerved over to the right, its tires chirping on the pavement, and went around her through the red. I get shivers still as I replay the near accident in my mind. He would have run right over her.

I stopped my bike beside her car and looked over at her. She looked at me and I gave her what I thought was the universal sign of “wow, that was a close call, are you ok?” (deliberate exhale, both hands raised a bit). She looked a bit confused and turned away. With adrenalin still pumping I made my big mistake. I leaned over and tapped on her window to ask her to roll down her window a touch. The poor lady panicked and reached over to the passenger seat, grabbing her cell phone.

I gave her the universal signal of “it’s ok, don’t bother”. (I backed away, hands apart, and tried to give her a friendly smile) Then I just moved over to the curb and waited for the light to change. The rest of the way down 156<sup>th</sup> I wondered if I would be pulled over by the police. I also wondered what kind of story that poor driver had to share with co-workers, family or friends when she got to where she was going.

Being the pastoral type, where no experiences go to waste, it didn’t take me long to realize that there is a great application to this story. Maybe you can see it coming. Here’s my take on it.

All day long, everywhere we go, God is watching us with concern. He wants nothing more than to reach out to us with mercy, to comfort us, help us, strengthen us and forgive. He wants to be with us. Often when he reaches out, we misunderstand. We think that if he gets into our space our situation will become worse. We think that if he gets too close to us, he will steal our joy. Sometimes when he knocks on our windows, we mistake him for the enemy, when all along it is the one who loves us most who is reaching out to us. There are people who have lived with misunderstandings about God through several generations.

So how could God ever convince us that we do not need to be afraid of him, but that he is coming to us in love? Well he has already done that, listen, “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world, that we might live through him. (I John 4:9)

When it is God knocking on your window, open wide and invite him into your life. You will never regret it.

Grace and peace,

pastor John Luth, Christian Reformed Church of St. Albert

PS. Ma’m, if you’re reading this, sorry for scaring you. I hope you had a good day.